7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

Breweries

274 Iraq's only brewery, having a capacity of 50 barrels per day, is not adequate to meet market demands. The owners are therefore in the process of obtaining additional equipment to double the plant's output. The brewery, which has been in operation since 1945, is very modern in design and its product is of excellent quality.

Distillery

Iraq's only source of ethyl alcohol is a small, modern, well-designed distillery located in Baghdad. Surplus dates are used as raw material. Although they are not expensive, they are nevertheless more costly than the raw materials, such as molasses, which are used in the alcohol industry in other countries. Thus the distillery is operating at about one third capacity, since the market will not absorb its entire production at the prices it charges. Most of the current output is used in the making of the national alcoholic drink known as *arak*.

258 ***Date Packing***

Date packing is probably one of the oldest industries in the country. Market requirements have kept the industry very modern and fully capable of meeting all demands on it.

Matches

372 There are two match manufacturing companies in Iraq, both producing matches of very good quality. One company utilizes paper, and the other wood. Their combined production is equivalent to about one half of Iraq's requirements.

Cigarettes

277 The bulk of Iraq's requirements of cigarettes are made in the country from home grown tobacco. The output of 12 factories in 1949 amounted to 2.25 billion cigarettes, but there were in addition many small producers of handmade cigarettes. Even in the factories much of the work is done by hand, but further mechanization cannot be expected until labor becomes more expensive.

Small Enterprises

433 There are many small enterprises in Iraq which could be
445 expanded, such as tire retreading, reclaiming of lube oil, wood-

3sRoyal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

yield of nearly twice that of wheat, it is more popular with farmers. In normal years Iraq grows sufficient barley to ensure an exportable surplus of some 300,000 tons. The main importers in 1950 were Holland and Great Britain.

Rice is grown mainly in the marshes of the Lower Tigris and Euphrates near Amara and Suq ash-Shuyukh and in the Hilla and Diwaniya *liwas*, especially in the marshes around Shamiya. A small quantity is grown by irrigation in the valleys of the Kurdish areas. It is sown as a summer crop for harvesting between September and November. Its yield and price are usually higher than those of wheat or barley, but it is more extravagant of water and its cultivation is therefore restricted by law (1932). Before the war there was a small exportable surplus, but exports in recent years have been confined to limited amounts of the inferior qualities.

Dates. Iraqi dates constitute four-fifths of the world's production; the Government has a special interest in their cultivation and marketing. The Shatt al-Arab area above Basra, where growing, packing, and marketing are managed by a Date Board representing all interests, has 18 million[1] trees; the other main producing area in Iraq is on the Euphrates upstream from Nasiriya. Date-palms need a plentiful supply of water, but its quality and that of the soil is less important. Some 350 varieties of date are said to be grown in Iraq, of which only four are usually exported in quantity. Total annual production in normal times averages about 288,000 tons; of this about half is exported and half consumed within Iraq, either as food—dates are a staple item of diet—in natural form or as date syrup, or as raw material for the spirit industry. Of the by-products, the fibrous trunk is used for rope-making and the powdered stone for cattle fodder. Selection and packing for export are improving greatly under the supervision of the Government Date Board. The main importers of Iraqi dates were, in 1950, India, the United States, Egypt, Great Britain, Canada, and Pakistan.

Forests

The forests of Iraq, covering an area of 18,000 square kilometres, are of variable density. They were at one time far denser and more extensive, but have been and are still being reduced by shifting cultivation, fires, and uncontrolled cutting and grazing. The Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking a programme of conservation and afforestation, which will safeguard the soil, increase timber and

[1] The official figure; the IBRD report gives a figure of only 9·7 million.